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THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 19 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 135, No. 19

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Vol. 73, No. 19

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Michigan State Police have arrested one man in connection with a shooting in Inkster last Tuesday, April 28.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 19

Westland officials have offered their congratulations online to retiring police Sgt. Patrick Boucher and newly-promoted Sgt. Cale Furney.

See page 4.

Westland, Canton furlough, lay off employees

Both Canton Township and the City of Westland have been forced to furlough employees as the financial impact of the coronavirus wreaks havoc with municipal revenues.

Canton Township has officially laid off 350 part-time employees and put full-time township workers on a partial furlough last week. The decision was made during an online meeting of the board of trustees early this month.

Revenue from building permits and anticipated state revenue sharing of state sales tax have sharply declined as people stay home and nonessential businesses remain closed in response to the Stay Home Stay Safe executive order of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Township officials have reduced the work schedule for full-time employees to two days each week.

The employees will be furloughed from their jobs for two days each week and will be required to use one paid day off each week through May.

In Westland, officials furloughed 66-percent of city employees as a result of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has effected on city revenue. The city laid off 77 employees in an effort to contain costs.

"The lack of business being conducted at city hall and other Westland entities has led to a drastic reduction in our current revenue stream," Mayor William R. Wild said. "This includes building permits, licenses and other over-the-counter transactions. The city's finance team is also forecasting potential decreases in state shared revenue. These factors have led me to make one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make as mayor."

Department of Public Service staff members, clerical workers, department heads, the mayor's staff and part0time workers in Westland have all been furloughed indefinitely. The city will not hire the usual 60 employees who comprise the summer staff working in the parks, officials said. The layoffs became effective last Friday.

Both the Canton Township and City of Westland public safety departments will continue to operate at full strength, officials said, and critical infrastructure work on water and sewer services will continue in Canton. Every other township department will be affected by the furloughs and layoffs.

Canton Township Hall

Westland City Hall

During the Canton Township Board of Trustees electronic meeting, Trustee Anne Marie Graham-Hudak expressed concern regarding the reported problems in filing for unemployment benefits with the State of Michigan. She urged those experiencing the problem to call their state representative in Lansing.

In Westland, Wild said he anticipates a savings of $250,000 if both the 18th District Court and the William D. Faust Public Library furlough employees, a plan cur-

See **Furloughs,** page 6

Beaumont plans to reopen shuttered Wayne hospital

Beaumont Hospital, Wayne may resume operations as early as this week according to an official statement from the largest health care system in the state. The hospital will serve both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients after receiving required regulatory approvals and reopening, according to officials who said the campus will reopen in phases as the health system brings staff back.

"Beaumont Health has cared for more COVID-19 patients than any other health system in the state. We've proudly responded to the community's needs during this pandemic and reconfigured our hospitals and redeployed staff to provide high quality and safe care. With the number of COVID-19 patients seeking care at Beaumont decreasing a bit recently, it is now appropriate to begin re-opening the Wayne campus in phases as we carefully prepare for another potential COVID-19 surge," Beaumont Health Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Wilson said.

> *"As additional services come online and are approved by regulators, Beaumont will notify the community.*

The current plan includes the reopening of the Emergency Center during phase one along with obstetrical services that were offered prior to converting the Wayne facility to a COVID-19 exclusive treatment facility. Also scheduled to be reopening during the first phase of resuming operations are both observation and inpatient medical surgical beds and support services including the pharmacy, laboratory, food services and environmental services, according to a prepared statement.

In addition, some outpatient surgical and diagnostic services, including the infusion center, will be offered, in compliance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Orders, to meet the time sensitive needs of patients.

Phase II will add more inpatient and critical care capacity as Beaumont carefully reconfigures critical staffing and resource needs across the organization as COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 volumes change.

"Many factors that could affect health care are beyond Beaumont's control, such as government orders and the public's willingness to observe social distancing protocols. Therefore, all plans are subject to change," a hospital spokesman noted.

"As additional services come online and are approved by regulators, Beaumont will notify the community," officials concluded.

There was no comment about the possibility of returning any of the 2,375 laid off employees to work or the reinstatement of 450 full-time positions the health

See **Hospital,** page 6

The Eagle to suspend print editions, publish online

Editions of The Eagle, the award-winning local newspapers serving 12 area communities, will now be online only.

The electronic editions can be accessed at associatednewspapers.net.

The move is necessary due to the economic impact the coronavirus has inflicted on local businesses, which support the newspaper by advertising their individual goods and services.

"This decision was more than difficult. These papers have been in my family for more than 75 years, and in 150 years, we have never missed a publication. We will continue online and resume publication as soon as feasible," said David J. Willett, owner and president of Associated Newspapers, publishers of The Eagle.

"To protect the health and safety of our employees, this move to temporarily suspend the print editions is necessary. We have to be confident of our employees' safety," Willett said.

Mail subscribers of the newspaper will have subscriptions extended for the length of time the editions are published on line and all legal notifications will appear in the electronic versions each week and will, as usual, be permanently archived.

"Like so many others, this worldwide pandemic has forced me to make one of the most heartbreaking and difficult decisions of my life," Willett said.

"We consider what we do an integral part of our communities and we do not take our committment to that responsibility lightly. This was a heartbreaking decision for all involved," Willett concluded.

The Eagle serves the Belleville area, including Van Buren and Sumpter townships, Canton Township, Inkster, the township and city of Northville, both the township and city of Plymouth, and the cities of Romulus, Wayne and Westland.

For home delivery of The Eagle call 734-467-1900.

Belleville - Romulus

Helping hands

Nearly 200 residents in need received dry and canned goods last Thursday during a commodities distribution organized by the City of Romulus outside of the Romulus Senior Center. To protect volunteers and those picking up supplies, residents were asked to stay in their vehicles and have their trunk empty and open when approaching the pick-up location. The event was part of the commitment of the city to ensure residents have the resources they need during COVID-19 pandemic, a city spokesperson noted.

Business continues while township hall remains closed

In response to the extension of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order, Van Buren township offices will remain closed through Friday, May 15.

The temporary closure includes all township administration offices, the parks and recreation department and the senior center.

Emergency services including police, fire department and emergency dispatch will remain open and provide service to township resident.

Van Buren Township officials and staff members will continue to work remotely, according to a prepared statement from the administration. For emergencies, such as a water main break, residents can contact Van Buren Township dispatch at (734) 699-8930. For non-emergencies, government services and/or general questions about topics such as building permits, Focus Hope, or others, residents can call (734) 699-8910 and leave a message. A staff member will return residents' calls as soon as possible.

Township staff members are encouraging residents to pay taxes and water bills online or use the drop box located in front of township hall. The box is checked daily, officials said, but residents should use it for checks only, no cash.

Tax and utility payments can also be made via debit, credit card or echeck at https://bsaonline.com/Home/WelcomePage

Residents can sign up for automated debit for utility bill payments using a form found at https://vanburen-mi.org/Forms/Automatic_Water_Bill_Payment.pdf

Residents paying online will be charged a processing fee.

There is also a drop box located in the lobby of the public safety department which is also checked daily.

Personal checks or money orders should be mailed to: 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI.

Yard waste pick up resumed the week of April 20, although bulk pick-up is still suspended until further notice. Trash and recycling are services operating as scheduled. Waste Management crews are working as quickly as possible based on crew availability. Anyone who needs a yard waste sticker or landfill pass to drop off bulk items should call (734) 699-8926, leave a detailed message including their name, address and phone number.

> *We're closely following the COVID-19 situations and will update our staff and residents as new information is reported. Thank you for your patience and understanding.*

Police and fire reports can be obtained by submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request available on the township website: https://vanburen-mi.org/officials/clerk/.

The FOIA request form can also be emailed and/or faxed by contacting the records office at (734) 699-8939 or by emailing Tina Harman at tharman@vanburen-mi.org.

When sending email requests, residents should write FOIA Request in the subject line.

Copies of traffic crash reports can be obtained on the CLEMIS website: www.clemis.org. To obtain the copy, requesters will need to know the report number when making the request. These reports can also be obtained by submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request form.

Those who do not know the report number can contact the records office at (734) 699-8939.

Due to records window closure at this time, local background checks will not be done at the window. Residents can visit the State of Michigan website: www.michigan.gov to obtain an ICHAT background check through the State of Michigan.

"Van Buren Township is committed to supporting our at-risk populations. Our website has a list of local resources available to assist our residents seeking food, shelter, utility assistance, mental health resources, unemployment information, small business loans, grants, and more. For more information visit http://vanburen-mi.org/," the release noted.

"We've partnered with the Van Buren DDA and Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce to create a COVID-19 Business Directory. Visit https://vanburendda.com/ to see which businesses are open as essential services. If you're a business that has remained open please visit the website and fill out the form that only takes 3 minutes," the statement continued.

All township events have been canceled until July 5. This includes fireworks and the first session Summer Camp. Refunds will be issued for those who have registered for camp and classes. The Senior Center will continue with the emergency foods program such as Meals on Wheels, but will remain closed for senior activities.

"We're closely following the COVID-19 situations and will update our staff and residents as new information is reported. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please Stay Home and Stay Safe," the statement concluded.

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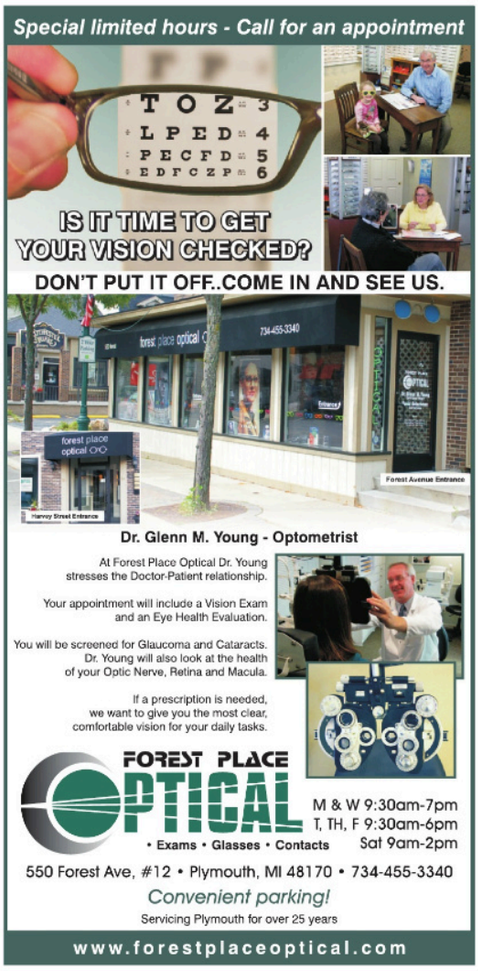
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CANTON

Fore

Championship Pheasant Run course is now open

Pheasant Run Golf Club opened for business with the first tee time on the 27-hole championship course set for 9 a.m. last Monday.

Golf carts will not be available, so golfers must walk the course and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Pull-carts are allowed on the course and players are encouraged to bring their own. Tee times are required and can be booked online at www.golfprgc.org

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, temporary measures will be implemented that align with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Players are asked to arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before their scheduled time. Flagsticks are to remain in the holes at all times. Players are not to touch flagsticks or other objects that may have been touched by any other players, such as other players' golf balls, clubs, bags or tees. Golf hole cups will be installed upside down, elevating holed golf balls and eliminating the need for golfers to put their hands in the hole.

Eighteen holes will be operational for play daily from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Volunteer rangers will be monitoring the course to ensure compliance of all restrictions.

"The overall safety and health of golfers and staff on our course remains our top priority," stated Paul Simpson, Pheasant Run general manager, and PGA head golf professional. "We're taking the necessary steps to protect our employees and golfers from coming into contact with the coronavirus so that this sport can remain available for everyone during these difficult times."

Pheasant Run Golf Club has been following guidelines and recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Wayne County Public Health Division, and will continue to do so until this COVID-19 health emergency subsides, officials said.

The Pheasant Run Championship Golf Course was designed by world-renowned architect Arthur Hills.

The 27-hole layout covers more than 300 acres of rolling terrain and traverses more than 10.5 miles from start to finish.

For more information on Pheasant Run Golf Club, visit www.golfprgc.org or call (734) 397-6460.

The golf course reopened in response to the State of Michigan Executive Order 2020-52, which rescinded Executive Order 2020-42, which allows golf as a recreational amenity.

Student charity race goes digital

This year, participants will have eight days to complete the Super Jess 5K charity race.

The 10th annual event, which provides help for local families in medical crisis, will take place virtually, to comply with social distancing required by the coronaviris pandemic.

The virtual event will allow participants to run, walk or bike the trail at their leisure through May 10.

The charity event, organized by students in the Plymouth Canton Community Schools district, is named for former Canton High School sophomore Jesse Lindbauer who suffered a sinus infection which became an infected brain abscess in 2011. The Plymouth Canton community created the Super Jess 5K race to help the teen's family with medical expenses during his recovery.

The event has continued and has become an annual student event benefitting area families facing medical challenges and during the last nine years has helped 40 families and collected $500,000 to help with medical expenses.

The race is coordinated by students at the SJ5K Club at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. A foundation with a board of directors manages the finances for the group.

This year, the virtual event will benefit five families in the Plymouth-Canton Community: Layana Szmansky, Jonathan Suszkiewicz, Greg Gorski, Mikey Rosowski and Greg Milleville. To learn more about the families, visit http://www.sj5k.org/2020-families.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Charter Township of Canton, Division of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Charter Township of Canton, Division of Public Works, 4847 S. Sheldon Rd, Canton, Michigan 48188. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Division of Public Works at 734/397-1011 for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.

THANK YOU
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

NOTICE
PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Plymouth Charter Township, Department of Public Works, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Department of Public Works, 734-354-3270, Extension 3, for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup. Thank You

PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JERRY VORVA, Clerk,
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish April 30 & May 7, 2020

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY
May 26, 2020 - 7:00 PM

The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The meeting and public hearing will be held by electronic remote access. The planning commission will consider a conditional rezoning for properties located at 15765 N. Haggerty Rd., 15709 N. Haggerty Rd., and 15655 N. Haggerty Rd., from R-3 (Single Family Residential) to RM-1 (Multiple Family Residential).

The public is invited to participate in this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. For information on how to participate in the meeting and view the documents for the public hearing, please visit the township's website at https://twp.northville.mi.us/. Written comments will be received by the Northville Township Planning Commission at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

Tim Zawodny, Chair
Planning Commission

Publish: May 7, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON ADOPTION OF
BROWNFIELD PLAN – AMENDMENT #1
MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381 OF THE
PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1996, AS AMENDED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a Public Hearing shall be held before the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth on the 26th day of May, 2020, at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Township Hall, 9555 Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan, on the adoption of
the FIRST AMENDMENT to the Michigan International Technology Center Redevelopment Authority's Brownfield Plan, which the Authority proposes to implement pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The property to which the proposed Brownfield Plan Amendment #1 (Amendment #1) applies is a parcel located in the Michigan International Technology Center Redevelopment Area, which includes approximately 800 acres of property along the north and south sides of Five Mile Road between Napier Road and Beck Road in Northville and Plymouth Townships. Identification of the specific parcel subject to the proposed Brownfield Plan Amendment #1 is provided below.

The proposed Amendment #1 intends to capture incremental tax revenues from the redeveloped property to reimburse approved eligible costs on the subject parcel, and for areawide infrastructure improvements identified in the Initial MITC Brownfield Plan. The Initial Brownfield Plan was approved via resolution in December, 2019, and remains in force and effect.

This description of the property along with any maps and a description of the Amendment #1 are available for public inspection at Plymouth Town Hall, 9555 Haggerty Road and online at www.plymouthtwp.org. Please note that all aspects of the Amendment #1 are open for discussion at the public hearing.

Jerry Vorva, Clerk

May 1, 2020

Summary of an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 10 Article II (Teen Clubs) and Article III (Amusement Devices and Arcades), Chapter 14 Article VI (Kennels) and VII Indoor Pet Boarding Facilities), and Chapter 46 Sec. 46-5 (Fortunetelling and Palmistry) of the Canton Code of Ordinances and Amending Chapter 18, Sec. 18-1 to 18-800, Businesses. .

The approved ordinance significantly simplifies the business licensure process in Canton Township by providing for a streamlined application process, updating outdated language, and adjusting/eliminating certain license types of requirements and shall take effect the day after this posting. Changes to existing ordinances would eliminate the 1,000 foot limitation in the massage ordinance and replace it with Public Safety monitoring and compliance checks. Additionally, it is recommended that we no longer regulated industries which are monitored by more stringent state and federal regulations. As a result, Amusement Devices and Arcades, Service Stations, and used car dealers will no longer be regulated, but will continue to be monitored by compliance checks.

The following changes to the structure of ordinance can be summarized as follows:

Repealed Ordinances:

Chapter 10 - AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS (Repealed)
ARTICLE II. - TEEN CLUBS (added to new Chapter 18)
ARTICLE III. - AMUSEMENT DEVICES AND ARCADES (Repealed)

Chapter 14 – ANIMALS
ARTICLE VI. – KENNELS (added to new Chapter 18)
ARTICLE VII. - INDOOR PET BOARDING FACILITIES (added to new Chapter 18)

Chapter 18 – BUSINESSES
ARTICLE II. – JUNKYARDS (added to new Chapter 18)
ARTICLE III. – MASSAGE (added to new Chapter 18)
ARTICLE IV. - SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES (added to new Chapter 18)
ARTICLE V. - USED CAR DEALERS (Repealed)
ARTICLE VI. - AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE STATIONS (Repealed)
ARTICLE VII. - SMOKING LOUNGES (added to new Chapter 18)
ARTICLE VIII. - MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS (added to new Chapter 18)

Chapter 46 - OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Sec. 46-5. - Fortunetelling and palmistry. (Repealed)

New Structure:

Chapter 18 –Businesses
ARTICLE I. In General (Purpose, Universal Definitions)
Sec. 18-4. Monitored Businesses Defined.
Used Car Dealers
Automotive Service Stations
Amusement Devices and Arcades.
Sec. 18-5. Marihuana establishments prohibited.
ARTICLE II. Licensing
ARTICLE III. Individual Business Guidelines
DIVISION 1. Junkyards.
DIVISION 2. Massage Establishments.
DIVISION 3. Sexually Oriented Businesses.
DIVISION 4. Smoking Lounges.
DIVISION 5. Teen Clubs.
DIVISION 6. Kennels.
DIVISION 7. Indoor Pet Boarding Facilities.

True copies of the complete ordinance can be found for free at www.canton-mi.org and can also be viewed or copied at 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI during normal business hours. Call 734-394-5120 for more information.

Northville - Westland

Westland police sergeant retires, officer promoted

Sgt. Patrick Boucher

Sgt. Cale Furney

While the recent changes in the Westland Police Department will not be announced at the regular meeting of the city council members due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials have offered their congratulations online to Sgt. Patrick Boucher and newly-promoted Sgt. Cale Furney.

Boucher has had a long and respected 29-year police career, including working 3 years with the Detroit Police Department, 3 years with the Huron Police Department and then 23 years with the Westland Police Department.

Boucher's retirement, provided the opportunity for a department promotion and Ofc. Cale Furney was sworn in as the newest sergeant of Westland Police Department.

"Unfortunately, they could not celebrate these events as they normally would, but we look forward to holding a formal ceremony for Sgt. Furney and his family later this summer, as well as a celebration in honor of Sgt. Boucher's years of service to the community," noted a prepared statement from the department.

"Congratulations Sergeant Boucher on his well earned retirement, and also to new Sergeant Furney on his promotion," noted the post on the department Facebook page.

Planning commissioners OK ordinance language

Members of the City of Northville Planning Commission met online last week and discussed three issues that impact residents and businesses in the city.

Commissioners approved new outdoor storage space for Northville Lumber, consented to a public survey for the Master Plan public input process, and asked the city planning consultant to incorporate changes to the draft Floor Area Ratio (FAR) ordinance.

The Planning Commission approved the Special Land Use and Preliminary Site Plan requested by Northville Lumber for outdoor storage at 777 Baseline Road, with some conditions. The business must limit the use of the southern portion of the site to storage of building materials only, provide six truck parking spaces and maintain storage within the boundaries as indicated on the plan. The commissioners also required only loading and unloading on the south side of the building as a secondary use to storage.

> *Commissioners also requested changes to the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) ordinance language in response to a presentation by City Planner Sally Elmiger.*

In addition, Northville Lumber must supply the city with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) annually for materials stored outside.

On another topic, members of the subcommittee for the public input process of the Master Plan presented an update of their work. Based on that recommendation, the planning commissioners agreed to work with Carlisle Workman Associates (CWA) on a Master Plan Survey.

Commissioners also requested changes to the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) ordinance language in response to a presentation by City Planner Sally Elmiger at the April meeting. Changes include a change in the FAR factor to 0.36 for all properties; add 2,500 square-foot minimum house size if FAR results in a house less than 2,500 square foot and investigate the addition of language excluding bonus rooms above a garage and half stories if that room(s) is located within the slope of the roof and the space doesn't add mass to the building.

Northville Township extends water bill payment date

While residents in Northville Township have received their April water bills in the mail, officials have agreed to allow a little extra time to make the payments.

According to Assistant Township Manager/Finance Director Marina Neumaier, township officials have extended the due date for the April water and sewer bills from May 4 to June 5. The payment due date extension is due, Neumaier said in a prepared statement, to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and Stay Home Stay Safe executive order of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

While Northville Township Hall offices remain closed, payments can be mailed to Northville Township-Water, P.O. Box 674268, Detroit, MI 48267-4268 or on the township website. Payments sent by mail, Neumaier said, will be processed by Comerica Bank on the day they are received.

If making an online payment, residents should enter their address by entering only the house number and then the address from the search results. Both credit card and electronic bank transfers can be accepted.

There is a fee for these electronic transfers.

For more information or questions, residents can contact the township at communityrelations@twp.northville.mi.us.

Northville Township residents who have signed up for the with autopay option will have the April payment deducted from their bank account on the regular May 4 due date.

Community effort

The Northville Township Firefighters Charity Fund, Northville Township Police Officers Association, and Northville Township Command Officers Association partnered to donate $5,000 dollars to the Wayne State First Responder Mobile Testing Program. The donation will be used to help offset costs incurred by the program to provide free COVID-19 testing to first responders in the area. These tests are vital to keep our police officers and firefighters on duty to continue to provide the best service possible, a spokesperson said.

It's never been more important for everyone living in Michigan to be counted in the U.S. census.

The census impacts everyone from seniors to students, kids and parents and our local businesses and neighborhoods. Participating in the census is a civic duty as important as voting to our democracy.

To help get the word out, the state of Michigan has launched the Be Counted campaign to communicate the importance of completing the census, dispel myths and help ensure every Michigander is counted in the 2020 Census.

The census form is available in several different languages in addition to English, including Spanish. You are not required to be a citizen in order to complete the 2020 Census, and there are no citizenship questions on the census form.

The census takes place every 10 years with the goal of counting everyone living in the United States. Invitations to complete the 2020 Census will begin arriving in mailboxes across Southeast Michigan in March.

For the first time, the census can be filled out online, as well as by phone or mail, making it more convenient than ever.

Also, your information is 100% confidential and by law cannot be shared with anyone. Census data is only used to produce demographic statistics and will not be used in a way that will identify you or your household.

Completing the 2020 Census is critical to the future of our state. There is $3,000 in federal funding at stake for every person who completes the census.

The 2020 Census will ask questions about the number of people living in your household on April 1, 2020, and ask their names, ages, genders, race, dates of birth, relationship status, phone numbers and whether your home is owned or rented.

Participation in the census determines funding for local communities and essential services, including public safety, schools, housing, health care, and senior programs. Michigan receives nearly $30 billion per year in federal funding for these and many other critical programs. Census numbers also help determine how many congressional seats Michigan will have.

Be sure to fill out your census form and Be Counted in 2020.

To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/census2020/.

Kerry Ebersole Singh is Michigan's 2020 Census executive director.

Advertisement

Plymouth

Annual Art In The Park event cancelled this year

Raychel Rork

There will be no Art In The Park event in Plymouth this year.

Raychel Rork, president of the event, announced the cancellation on the event Facebook page noting that the organizers have already begun working on the event for next year.

The annual event, which would have marked the 41st festival from July 10 through 12 this year, has been negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the Facebook post on artinthepark.com says.

"For the past seven weeks our team has explored all options and if there were any assurances that there was a safe way forward we would take it, but at this point we believe this is the right choice," the post on Facebook reads. "We feel it is no longer practical to continue with an event this size at this time. The health and safety of artists, attendees, our community, and crew always comes first."

One of the largest community events in the community usually draws thousands of people to the city each July to visit and shop at the more than 400 booths which line the streets selling everything from fine oil paintings and hand crafted jewelry to tiny miniature creations aimed at the younger crowd. The festival has been the starting point for many young art entrepreneurs who had their first success at the section devoted to young artists in Kellogg Park.

Art In The Park began in 1979 when art hobbyist and long-time resident Dianne Quinn invited friends to work on their art efforts outdoors in Kellogg Park.

Following that first gathering of about 35 hobbyists and artists, the event continued to grow into the event honored as one of the best art festivals in the state. Rork, Quinn's daughter, assumed the management role from her mother when Quinn retired.

"We understand that this news is compounded by the sheer number of events that have been canceled leading to so much uncertainty and economic heartache," continued the post on the official Art In The Park page. "We do appreciate your support, and your trust and hope above all else to be back better than ever next year!"

The event has already been scheduled for July 9-11 next year.

Rocky road

Work started last week on one of the worst roads in Plymouth Township, General Drive between Ann Arbor Road and Joy Road, officials said. The $1.5 million rebuild project is funded by a $500,000 State of Michigan grant matched by a Special Assessment District paid by property owners along the road.

Plymouth library continues to offer on-line services

While the Plymouth Library has been forced to cancel all community meetings set for the facility through the month of May in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, there are still plenty of services being offered to the community.

"We are in close contact with neighboring libraries and exploring ways to reopen, to safely make returned items for the next check-out, to assess meeting room capabilities, and to sanitize equipment and the building for our patrons and staff. So many factors come into play - rest assured that we will make all of these decisions with safety in mind," explained Susan Stoney, community relations specialist.

Plymouthlibrary.org is open and on a visit to the website, patrons can get a digital library card to use right away with access to thousands of downloadable ebooks, audio books, movies, magazines and TV shows.

> *On a visit to the website, patrons can get a digital library card to use right away with access to thousands of downloadable ebooks, audio books, movies, magazines and TV shows.*

There is also helpful community information at the local, county, state and federal levels; online programs, storytimes and craft projects, she said.

Questions about services or availability are answered by a real library employee through info@plymouthlibrary.org or by calling (734) 453-0750, ext 200.

"There is more information about the library on social media," Stoney said, "Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.

"We are happy to assist you and look forward to seeing you all again soon," she concluded.

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Inkster - Wayne

Hospital

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care facility eliminated last week in response to the impact of the coronavirus on hospital revenue across the entire system. With the elimination of all elective and non-emergency surgeries and treatments, revenue at the hospitals has been drastically reduced, according to hospital management.

Beaumont had laid off several Wayne hospital employees and transferred others to hospitals within the system.

"As we have said from the beginning, we are going to reopen our Beaumont Hospital Wayne Campus. We are still working through the details and timing and we will share more information as soon as we can," the hospital said in a prepared statement.

Last week, Beaumont Health system CEO John Fox said last week that "Temporary laid off employees can apply for enhanced unemployment benefits available through state and federal programs. As additional medical services are brought back online at all our campuses, including Wayne, employees could be asked to return to their roles. These individuals can also continue to participate in their Beaumont health insurance and other benefits at their current employee rates during the layoff period."

Shooting suspect arrested following foot chase

Michigan State Police have arrested one man in connection with a shooting in Inkster last Tuesday, April 28.

The arrest came in connection with a shooting incident which left a local man wounded several times, according to police reports. Officers from the Inkster Police Department and the Michigan State Police responded to calls from the area of New York Street and Princess, reporting shots fired and a man injured.

When police arrived on the scene, they found one man lying in the street suffering multiple gunshot wounds. Witnesses told officers that the shooter had fled the area on foot. The injured man, who was discovered lying next to a Range Rover, was transported to a local hospital for treatment by Inkster emergency responders but no report on his condition was available.

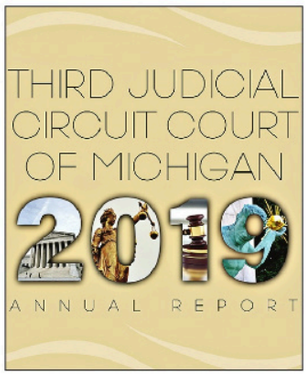
The Michigan State Police K-9 unit was utilized in an attempt to locate the suspect in the shooting.

Witnesses told police that a man matching the description of the suspect had been seen entering and quickly leaving a residence in the neighborhood.

When officers attempted to make contact with the man, he fled and a foot chase ensued, according to police reports.

The suspect was apprehended and taken into police custody.

No further information about the incident was available although the investigation is ongoing, according to police.



Graphic winners

Graphic design students at the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center swept the recent contest to design the cover page for the Third Judicial Circuit Court Annual Report. The Wayne Westland students won the top three prizes. First place was awarded to the design of graphic student Daytona Irwin, above left, who won a laptop computer. Second place honors went to Hayla Thurmand, center, who won a $100 gift card and third place went to Lance Church, above right, who won a $50 gift card.

Furloughs

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rently being considered, he said in a prepared statement.

Wild stressed that the furloughs are not layoffs. He said by furloughing the employees, the city can continue to provide them with benefits such as healthcare while allowing them to collect unemployment insurance benefits.

"The idea of a furlough also has the added expectation that workers will return to their jobs at the end of the crisis, which is my goal," Wild said."

Wild said the decision isn't one he came to lightly, and considers all city staff "essential."

The city will aim to start bringing staff back to work when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Stay Home Stay Safe order ends, currently scheduled for May 15.

"It's important to note that all of the workers at the City of Westland are essential workers," he said.

"They would much rather be at work doing their jobs and collecting their paychecks so they can pay their bills and take care of their families. These are loyal workers, some who have been with the city for decades and never expected to see a day like this. Frankly, none of us did."

"The decision to place such a large number of employees on temporary furlough was difficult, but necessary to mitigate the financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic as municipalities across the nation are projecting budget shortfalls in the upcoming years," commented Wild.

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